

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01331 261321Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 TRSE-00 HA-05 MCT-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /083 W
-----044448 261526Z /40

R 261100Z JUN 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6386
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1331

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, PINS, PGOV, IZ
SUBJ: NEW PURGES IN MILITARY AND POLICE

1. WITHIN PAST TEN DAYS, REGIME HAS CARRIED OUT MAJOR PURGES OF AIR FORCE AND POLICE, ACCORDING TO IRAQI AND DIPLOMATIC SOURCES. AIR FORCE PURGE INVOLVES RETIREMENT OF AIR FORCE COS HAMID SHAABAN AND HIS REPLACEMENT BY BRIGADIER JASSAM MUHAMMAD AL-JIBOURI. AN ADDITIONAL 11 OR 12 SENIOR OFFICERS (NAMES UNKNOWN) ARE ON AIR FORCE RETIREMENT LIST.
2. SENIOR ARAB DIPLOMAT PROVIDED US WITH LIST OF 37 HIGH-RANKING POLICE OFFICERS WHO HAVE ALSO BEEN FORCED INTO RETIREMENT. SOURCE SAID THAT PURGE OF AN ADDITIONAL 48 LOWER-RANKING POLICE OFFICERS WAS ALSO INVOLVED. LIST FOLLOWS BY POUCH. A LOCAL SOURCE CLAIMING INTELLIGENCE ACCESS HAS TOLD US THAT "HUNDREDS" OF POLICE OFFICERS ARE
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 01331 261321Z

BEING RETIRED, MOSTLY FOR RELATIVE INCOMPETENCE.

3. COMMENT: THESE MOST RECENT PURGES DO NOT APPEAR TO INVOLVE ALLEGATIONS OF COMMUNIST BACKGROUNDS OR ASSOCIATIONS. ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE SOME CASES OF SUSPECTED COOPERATION OR SYMPATHY WITH LOCAL COMMUNISTS, RETIREMENT IN THE IRAQI SYSTEM IS A NORMAL MEANS FOR

REMOVAL BOTH OF INCOMPETENTS AND OF MEN JUDGED TO BE OVERLY AMBITIOUS. WITH RESPECT TO THE MILITARY, TENSIONS BETWEEN THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP AND THE SENIOR OFFICER CORPS HAVE EMERGED SINCE THE APPOINTMENT OF ADNAN KHAIRALLA AS MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND HIS PROMOTION TO AIR MARSHALL. IT ALSO SEEMS POSSIBLE THAT SOME OF THE SENIOR AIR FORCE OFFICERS HAD A PROFESSIONAL COMMITMENT TO SOVIET MILITARY TRAINING AND SUPPLY RELATIONSHIPS WHICH THE POLITICAL LEADERSHIP JUDGED INAPPROPRIATE AT TIME THAT AIR FORCE IS PREPARING TO RECEIVE MIRAGE JETS FROM FRANCE. BRIGADIER SHAABAN IS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF AN OFFICER WITH GOOD BAATH PARTY CREDENTIALS WHO, WHILE GENERALLY REGARDED AS A STAUNCH ANTI-COMMUNIST, HAS BEEN CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH EFFORTS TO BUILD UP THE AIR FORCE WITH SOVIET HELP.

4. IT WOULD BE MISLEADING TO ASSUME THAT SERIES OF PURGES WE HAVE WITNESSED IN FIRST HALF OF 1978 ARE SOMEHOW PART OF A MASTER PLAN. VARIETY OF FACTORS, ONLY ONE OF WHICH IS CONCERN OVER SUSPECTED ACTIVITY OF LOCAL COMMUNISTS, MUST ENTER IN. PARANOIA OF IRAQI REGIME IN ALL MATTERS VAGUELY RELATED TO INTERNAL SECURITY IS PROBABLY THE SINGLE THREAD COMMON TO PURGES WHICH HAVE NOW TOUCHED MILITARY SERVICES, POLICE, DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, INFORMATION MINISTRY, UNIVERSITIES AND LAWYERS.
PECK
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BAGHDA 01331 261321Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, GOVERNMENT REFORM, ARMED FORCES, PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BAGHDA01331
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780264-1033
Format: TEL
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780622/aaaaasuz.tel
Line Count: 94
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7a2c1782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2215846
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW PURGES IN MILITARY AND POLICE
TAGS: PINR, PINS, PGOV, IZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7a2c1782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014